

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 418
By Southerland

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Ben Shelton on the celebration of his 100th birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, Ben Shelton of Newport celebrated his 100th birthday on May 6, 2005, a milestone that commemorated yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, as a young boy growing up in Cocke County, Ben Shelton would spend time with the neighboring Cherokee Indians; starting his first job at the age of 17 he helped to build the 7.5 mile tunnel that today is used to feed the Waterville hydroelectric plant; and

WHEREAS, working on a building project in western North Carolina on Lemmons Gap Road, he met his future bride to be, Rachel Payne, the daughter of a co-worker. Married in 1930, this joyous union would endure 53 years, until Mrs. Shelton's passing in 1983, and produce eight children; and

WHEREAS, a hard worker all his life, Mr. Shelton would work for a \$1 a day in the 1940's plowing fields; he attributes his long life to a quote from the Book of Exodus: "Honor thy father and thy mother so that you may live long in the land the Lord God is giving you."; and

WHEREAS, Ben Shelton is appropriately recognized by his friends and acquaintances as a very wise man who has lived a fulfilled life; he likes to share the wisdom that he has attained from personal experience, which generosity serves as a testament to the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly wishes to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Ben Shelton on the celebration of his 100th birthday and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.